



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

*For Further Information Contact:*

*Paula L. Pedene, APR, Parade Coordinator*

*Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center*

*Phone: (602) 222-2667*

*Pager: (602) 779-3534*

### **Ninth Annual Veterans Day Parade** **Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

PHOENIX (October 24, 2005) Join Emmy award winning actress Ann Jillian, parade entries, and the new Rosie the Riveter helium balloon in the 2005 VA Veterans Day Parade. This year's parade celebrates veterans of the World War II era with the theme, "Serving at Home & Abroad, Honoring our World War II Veterans." World War II flying ace Bud Anderson and a flyover of the World War II bomber Sentimental Journey are just two aspects of the parade highlighting the World War II soldier. There will also be bands, floats, color guards, novelty units, and the Uncle Sam and Bald Eagle balloons in the annual parade. **The VAMC Veterans Day Parade kicks off at 11 a.m. on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and runs northbound from the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, westbound on Camelback, then northbound on Central Avenue to North Phoenix Baptist Church.**

There are more than 100 entries in this year's parade including:

- Nine Color Guards
- 15 Marching Units
- 32 civilian vehicles
- Six Novelty Units
- 11 Floats
- Two Historical Units
- 11 Military vehicles
- 14 Bands
- Two Equestrian Units
- Three helium balloons: a 47-foot Uncle Sam, a 35-foot Bald Eagle, a 40-foot Rosie the Riveter, and much more.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Grand Marshals are Fred Ferguson and Silvestre Herrera. Representing this year's Veteran Grand Marshals, World War II veterans, are Helen Coyte and Merlin Kampfer. Representing the Returning Freedom Grand Marshals are members of the Armed Forces who have returned from deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan. The 2005 parade also honors the veteran group, Navajo Code Talkers.

The VA Medical Center's Veterans Day Parade began in 1997 with 50 entries and approximately 10,000 people on the streets. Today there are more than 100 entries and more than 200,000 spectators line the parade route to watch the Parade. The Parade is designed to help commemorate

and honor our veterans and to educate Americans about the wonderful service our veterans have given to protect our freedoms.

-VAMC-

***MEDIA PLEASE NOTE:*** The parade set-up begins at 5:30 a.m. on medical center grounds. There are plenty of opportunities for live shots and live remotes throughout the morning. Just call Paula Pedene for live shot coordination.